

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A computer-implemented method for enabling communication between disconnected applications, comprising:
 - creating a bridge object in a secondary application, wherein an interface for the
 - 5 bridge object enables communication with the secondary application through the bridge object;
 - registering the interface for the bridge object in a global interface table (GIT);
 - retrieving a cookie from the GIT in response to the registration, wherein the cookie comprises information for utilizing the interface for the bridge object; and
 - 10 storing the cookie in an environment variable, wherein the environment variable is accessible to a disconnected application such that the cookie may be retrieved to enable use of the interface.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the secondary application comprises a
- 15 project hosting environment.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the disconnected application comprises an ActiveX control.
- 20 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the registering of the interface for the bridge object in the GIT comprises placing a pointer to the interface for the bridge object in the GIT.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the cookie identifies the pointer and a location of the interface.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
5 the disconnected application extracting the cookie from the environment variable;
the disconnected application accessing the cookie to enable use of the interface for the bridge object; and
the disconnected application communicating with the secondary application
10 using the interface for the bridge object.

7. An apparatus for enabling communication between disconnected applications in a computer system comprising:

- 15 (a) a computer system having a memory and a data storage device coupled thereto;
- (b) a secondary application performed by the computer;
- (c) a bridge object in the secondary application, wherein an interface for the bridge object enables communication with the secondary application through the bridge object;
- 20 (d) a global interface table (GIT) configured to:
 - (i) accept registration of the interface for the bridge object;
 - (ii) return a cookie in response to the registration, wherein the cookie comprises information for utilizing the interface for the bridge object; and

(e) an environment variable configured to store the cookie, wherein the environment variable is accessible to a disconnected application such that the cookie may be retrieved to enable use of the interface.

5 8. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the secondary application comprises a project hosting environment.

 9. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the disconnected application comprises an ActiveX control.

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 10. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the GIT accepts the registration of the interface for the bridge object by storing a pointer to the interface for the bridge object.

 11. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the cookie identifies the pointer and
15 a location of the interface.

 12. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the disconnected application is configured to:

 extract the cookie from the environment variable;

20 access the cookie to enable use of the interface for the bridge object; and

 communicate with the secondary application using the interface for the bridge object.

13. An article of manufacture comprising a program storage medium readable by a computer and embodying one or more instructions executable by the computer to perform a method for enabling communication between disconnected applications in a computer system, the method comprising:

5 creating a bridge object in a secondary application, wherein an interface for the bridge object enables communication with the secondary application through the bridge object;

 registering the interface for the bridge object in a global interface table (GIT);

 retrieving a cookie from the GIT in response to the registration, wherein the
10 cookie comprises information for utilizing the interface for the bridge object; and
 storing the cookie in an environment variable, wherein the environment variable is accessible to a disconnected application such that the cookie may be retrieved to enable use of the interface.

15 14. The article of manufacture of claim 13, wherein the secondary application comprises a project hosting environment.

 15. The article of manufacture of claim 13, wherein the disconnected
application comprises an ActiveX control.

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 16. The article of manufacture of claim 13, wherein the registering of the interface for the bridge object in the GIT comprises placing a pointer to the interface for the bridge object in the GIT.

17. The article of manufacture of claim 16, wherein the cookie identifies the pointer and a location of the interface.

5 18. The article of manufacture of claim 13, wherein the method further comprises:

the disconnected application the cookie from the environment variable;

the disconnected application accessing the cookie to enable use of the interface for the bridge object; and

10 the disconnected application communicating with the secondary application using the interface for the bridge object.